

FEB., 1909



NUMBER 23

# The Playground

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

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PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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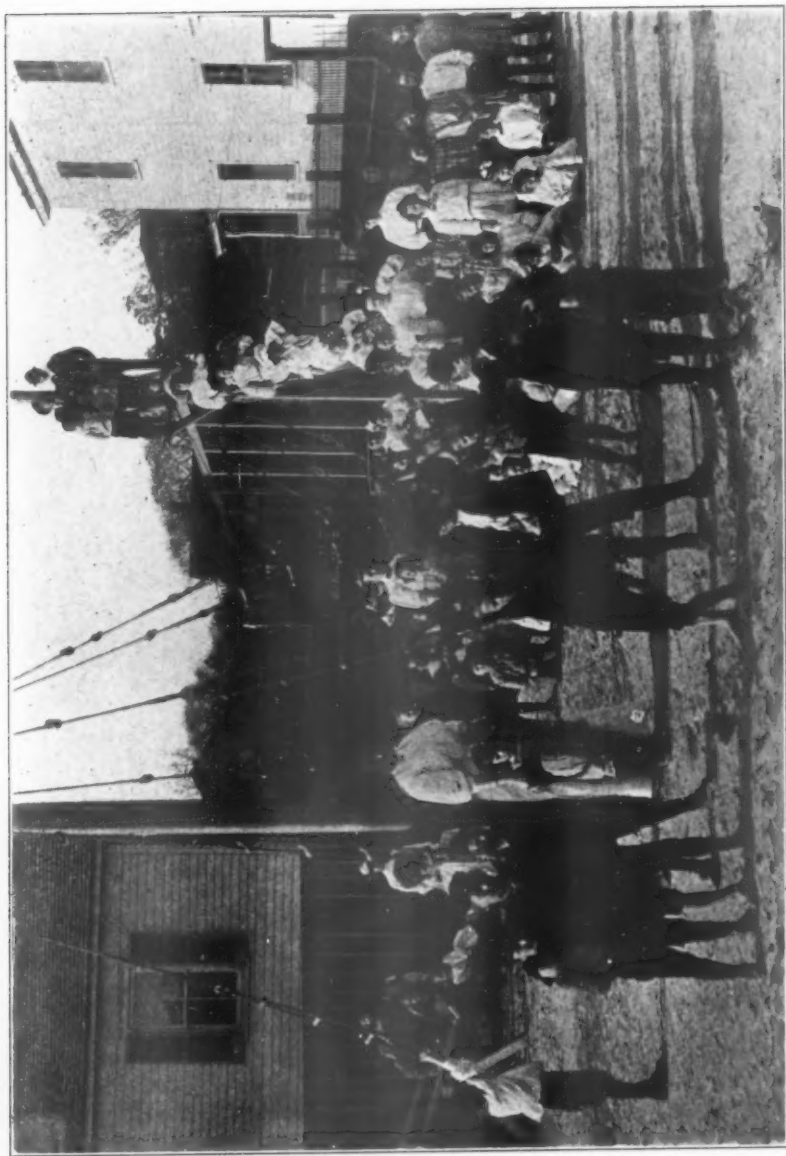
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# The Playground

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The Playground Association of America stands as a "clearing house" for playground information. It aims to be of service by putting inquirers into touch with playground plans and methods that experience has demonstrated to be sound. This can be accomplished only through the co-operation of every local organization that is giving attention to the establishment and administration of public playgrounds.

Much information was secured last year by diligent inquiry, but this material collected was far from complete. This is being published, however, as Part II of the Proceedings of the Second Annual Congress.

Questionnaires are now being sent out to all cities of 5,000 population or over

in the United States for the purpose of securing up-to-date information which will probably be published in the form of a Playground Association Hand Book. We shall appreciate greatly the co-operation of all local playground workers in making this data complete and reliable.

Reports and other publications from local associations will be reviewed in the PLAYGROUND and placed on the file in the Association library.

Preparations are in progress for the Third Annual Playground Congress to be held by the Playground Association of America in Pittsburgh, Pa., May 11-14, 1909. Suggestions regarding program, etc., will be appreciated.

## SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS—

### SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS.

By WALTER E. HARDY,

*Instructor on the Playgrounds at Hamilton Park, Chicago, Under the South Park Commission.*

THAT play is a necessity is now accepted as axiomatic. Where shall the children play, and what facilities shall be provided to give them a chance for real play is the problem that will confront local committees in choosing and equipping playgrounds in different cities for the following summer, and, no doubt, the experience of one who conducted a playground during the hot days of last July and August may contribute something to this new and growing movement.

The most ideal conditions for freedom of play are to be found in the country where nature offers opportunities that harmonize with boy nature—shade, grass on which to roll and tumble, an old "swimmin' hole," trees in which to climb, and fields where he may run and romp. Then we at once conclude that city playgrounds should conform as nearly as possible to natural requirements. In our congested city population the lack of these natural places for play creates the need for artificial playgrounds.

Nearly all of the play centers now furnish opportunities for climbing and running, but the shade, grass, and water are lacking. In most places where playgrounds are started as experiments by private donation, in order to get them centrally located, they are opened up on some sun-baked school yard, with possibly a few scrawny trees around the outside, no water near, and no grass. Apparatus, such as swings, teeters, ladders, etc., and a bare, heat-reflecting open space for massed games, are common to all such playgrounds as I have seen. Such an equipment would tax the ingenuity of the most resourceful director

to hold the interest of the children during the hottest days of summer, when every game that calls for violent exercise in the hot sun is sure to result in some child having a headache, nose-bleed or sunstroke.

My observations have been that the shaded apparatus is most used by the children. Swings hanging in the sun on our playground in Kalamazoo, Michigan, last summer, remained empty, while those in the shade were being used. As soon as the afternoon shade from the schoolhouse reached the hot, empty teeters they became filled. Sand piles in the open sun dry out and are of little use. The largest crowds came to play on cloudy and cool days. On those days all of the apparatus was in constant use, besides the enthusiasm that was shown in the team games, story hours and quiet circle games, all of which goes to prove that playgrounds should be provided with plenty of shade. If trees are not to be had, tents and canvas coverings will serve the purpose, and should be placed over the sand piles and apparatus, in part at least. The tents appeal to the child's imagination and may, in consequence, be put to various uses. A piano, if one is provided, should be under this shaded area, to be used in many of the games, marches and dances.

No playground is complete unless it affords a chance for the children to get their feet wet. Twice during the past summer we had rains heavy enough to fill a low spot in one corner of our playground with water which remained there all day. Nothing pleased the children more than to wade in this little pool. Even big girls twelve years old, who at first thought themselves "too big to go barefooted," were soon in with the rest. Following the suggestion of this incident and the plan of the pools on the South Park playgrounds of Chicago, I believe it would be possible at very little expense to have a wading pool

## —ENDORSEMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS

on even a school-yard playground. A man with team and scraper could soon lower a basin two feet deep and sixteen feet square which, lined with cement and a drain in the center, could be filled with fresh water every day.

Every playground should contain a grass plot, separate from the apparatus and game courts, where the director may take the boys for an occasional romp, with tumbling, wrestling, rolling, somersaults, etc. It also furnishes a place for the girls to play their quiet games. By careful supervision this grass may be kept in good condition and still serve its useful purpose.

The things that I have suggested here appeal to me as being absolutely necessary to a most successful playground, and they are not beyond the reach of any body of men or women anxious to do something for the moral and physical welfare of their children.

guson on December 23d asked that the Council take up the subject so as to meet the needs of children throughout the city.

The report reads as follows:

"The opening of the new House of Detention emphasizes the duty of the municipal government to guard against the commission of crime on the part of the children of the city. The problem of juvenile delinquency has been receiving the careful attention of the larger cities of the country. Playgrounds have been established in Chicago during the last ten years at an expenditure of more than \$11,000,000, raised by bond issues. In New York more than \$16,000,000 have been likewise expended within a similar period. one playground alone costing \$1,811,127, a block of tenement houses having been torn down to make way for it. Boston has also made marked progress.

"In Chicago the playgrounds and recreation centers have been established at a cost of less than \$2 for each \$10,000 of assessed valuation of the property benefited, and is the cheapest way, from the standpoint of the municipality, of dealing with the problem of juvenile crime. It is to-day costing the city of Philadelphia many thousands of dollars a day to punish those guilty of crime and protect property from the criminal.

"Experience teaches that the most economic scheme for handling the problem of crime is that which prevents rather than that which, at fearful expense, is merely the engine to convict and punish after crime has become an established fact. As the actual return in dollars is more or less invisible, it is difficult for some people to see the necessity for public playgrounds. Where the parents, as is usually the case, are the sole source of support they should not as a general rule be blamed for the delinquency of the child, for the responsibility is the responsibility of the



WANTED, A PLAYGROUND.

### THE PHILADELPHIA GRAND JURY AND JUDGE STAAKE ENDORSE THE PLAYGROUND MOVEMENT.

**S**TRONGLY recommending the establishment of playgrounds as a means of preventing juvenile crime, the Grand Jury of Philadelphia in its final presentment to Judge Fer-



## ENDORSEMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS—

entire community. It is the duty of the municipal government to provide proper opportunities for healthful out-door exercise and play for the children of the city. The founder of the Juvenile Court system in the United States has declared, 'It is no longer a question that playgrounds do more to prevent crime than, jails, courts and policemen.'

"Judge Staake, of Philadelphia, likewise calls attention to the fact that 'an adequate system of playgrounds will work a transformation in many of our children, reduce the petitions to and the commitments by the Juvenile Court. The public playground has proved itself to be the greatest deterrent of delinquency and lawlessness among children.'

"We recommend that the Councils of the city of Philadelphia institute a careful investigation into what has been done in the matter of playgrounds in other cities, and we further recommend that a general plan for the entire city be formulated which will be adequate to the needs of the children throughout the community."

Judge William H. Staake, who has made a study of the relationship of playgrounds to the problem of juvenile delinquency, has the following to say:

"It is the education of the street, the lack of home sympathy, discipline and training, which makes the 'all work and no play' which necessarily results in the 'dull' and bad boy. In these days of 'adenoids,' mental deficiency of children, difficulties of sight and hearing, which our specialists counsel us often result in delinquencies for which the child is not responsible, there is the greater necessity that our children should have the healthful, strong bodies, which produce healthful minds and morals.

"My over two years' experience in the Juvenile Court, preceded by some fif-

teen years' experience as a member of the Board of Managers of a reform educational and industrial school, convince me that these 'delinquent' children coming to the bar of the Court, are often more sinned against than sinning. Stunted bodies often result in undeveloped minds and these in warped morals. Every child playing upon a sand heap in the street, wading in a flooded gutter, trespassing upon a building in course of erection, sliding and skating upon the sidewalks, using the sidewalks and roadways as a ball park and playground is a living cry for the Public Playground.

"Sound, healthful boys and girls will help to make better homes, as they must by example and words not only beneficially affect their delinquent parents, but when in turn they become parents, the better homes will be a necessary result.

"An adequate system of playgrounds will work a transformation in many of our children, reduce the petitions to and the commitments by the Juvenile Court, and produce vacant rooms in many of our best charities. I believe the Public Playground is the greatest deterrent of delinquency and lawlessness among children. It stands for body and character building and produces better children, homes, morals and citizens.

"On the score of public economy alone the playground is a necessity, and I believe the widespread demand for them will result in making the public playground the companion of the public school.

The Tuberculosis Exhibit, shown in Washington at the Tuberculosis Congress, was exhibited at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, for several weeks.

At the Exhibit the Children's School Farm League had a very interesting and



## —SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LIFE



MODEL OF SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LIFE.

instructive exhibit, the model of a children's ideal farm being especially worth a visit. Samples of the products, even to a crop of peanuts raised by the children, were displayed in a pleasing manner.

The work of this League was described by Mrs. Parsons, in *PLAYGROUND* No. 18.

In the Massachusetts exhibit, the Boston Tuberculosis Association had an interesting model of the School of Outdoor Life, established at Roxbury, Mass. The following account, by Mr. Walter Kruesi, Secretary of the Association, gives an idea of what Boston is doing for children:

### **SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LIFE, ROXBURY, MASS.**

Examination of the families of persons applying at the Tuberculosis Clinics in Boston was started at the instance of the Boston Association for the Relief and Control of Tuberculosis in January, 1907. The first 1,200 children examined revealed 100 cases of tuberculosis, mostly incipient. These children were attending the regular public

schools. As the incipient cases are not contagious they were not a source of danger to their schoolmates, but their school records show that they were too unwell to absorb the education which was provided. This, therefore, represented a waste of thousands of dollars per year. Furthermore, the average school ventilation conditions, and the pressure of the school work was distinctly detrimental to them. There was absolutely no institution or other provision for such children in this State. Turning to find out what others were doing, the Boston Association studied the Forest School, provided for this class of cases by many of the German cities, and the Outdoor Schools, provided in England. In these schools the children admitted are sent every day to the open country nearest their homes and are there provided with proper clothing and school benches set down in the open. During storms the benches are moved under a canopy roof. There is no further shelter. The children are properly fed during the day, and the curriculum is modified by the introduction

## SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LIFE—

of therapeutic exercises, rest periods, and otherwise, as indicated by scientific study of the needs of the group. The Association's Secretary proposed last winter that a similar school should be organized in Boston. Finally, on the 16th of July, it was opened as a Day Sanatorium and School of Outdoor Life on the grounds of the proposed Robert Brigham Hospital, Parker Hill, Roxbury. This situation has been previously used to good effect for an adult Day Sanatorium. A simple building was built containing two dressing-rooms and lavatory with a large shower bath between, an open kitchen, pantry, and platform for a large tent to be used for a shelter in storms and as a dining-room. Three 10 by 12 tents were provided for the cook, handy man, and tools and supplies. A garden three feet by seven was laid out for each team of two children. There were also three central flower gardens. In these were planted seven varieties of vegetables and 10 varieties of flowers. Small plants were put in because of the lateness of the season and in order to give the children an encouraging start.

The schedule of the day began with assembly and the raising of the national and health flags, then ablutions, breakfast, brushing of teeth. After an hour's work in the garden and an hour's class in study of the lessons of the need of living things for oxygen, good food, sunlight, elbow room, etc., they again became active in free play. Washing up for dinner quieted them, and after again brushing the teeth, all were required to rest or sleep for an hour. The afternoon routine was similar, except that the shower bath hour came at the end of the active period and before supper. At the end of eight weeks all of the children had gained in weight, had made marvelous improvement in appearance and manners, while the tuberculosis of eight had been definitely arrested. Every

garden had succeeded in every crop. One child's family had moved out of the worst part of town to good quarters, while others had materially improved their surroundings.

Lest the great gain which had been made should be lost, the School Board was requested to organize a special class made up of these children and others admitted to take the place of the discharged. An especially fitted teacher was selected for the work, and is now conducting it in the unheated tent. To provide against the exposure, every child is given a waterproof canvas bag lined with blanket. Each child has also been provided with an especially warm overcoat and other necessary clothing. The teacher reports that the children are making satisfactory progress in keeping up with the work which they ought to do but which they could not were they in the regular school. The city of Boston is making an effort to provide the school with a proper building for shelter during bad weather and in order that the efforts already so well begun may be placed on a safe basis for continued development.

WALTER KRUESI.

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Why have Playgrounds?—Children always play if they have a chance, but do they need to? What useful object does play accomplish?

Briefly, play builds the child. Muscles are developed by use. So also of the heart and lungs and other organs, even of the bones. So also of the mind and character. Play is growth. It is nature's prescription of the activities that shall form the child. It is her method of making him a man. The child plays for the same reason that the grass grows or the flowers spring up; for the same reason that he is here at all.

JOSEPH LEE.

—SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LIFE



1. THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN.

2. NATURE STUDY.

## PUBLICITY—

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF E. B. DE  
GROOT, DIRECTOR OF GYMNASIUMS  
AND PLAYGROUNDS, CHICAGO, ILL.

"However difficult it may be to interpret America to the recent arrivals from other countries; however difficult it may be to unite our adult population on public issues of the day affecting the common weal, they may be unified most easily on those things which affect the interests of children. And the children's playgrounds not only help in unifying our adult population but they interpret fundamental American ideals to all concerned. The central ideal in America is that we are self-governed people. We are governed by laws made by our own people, and we appoint officials to enforce the laws. But the best and most patriotic citizenship comes not as a result of compelling obedience to and respect for laws, but as a result of the practice of right ethical relations with each other, no matter what races, nationalities or classes are involved. This is the spirit of the playgrounds as expressed in the plan of play and games which teach self-control and self-government."

Carefully compiled statistics show a comparative lessening of 28 per cent. in juvenile convictions within the half-mile radius of Chicago's South Park playgrounds. Any policeman with experience before and after a playground was started will testify to a similar effect. And these Chicago playgrounds, the most expensive in the world, cost \$1.76 for establishment and twenty-three cents a year for maintenance to the man taxed on \$10,000.

The child denied a playground resorts to lawlessness. But his law-breaking is far more lawful than our neglect. The law that we have violated is the more ancient and more authentic of the two.—*Joseph Lee.*

## PUBLICITY.

LUTHER HALSEY GULICK, M.D.

A PLAN now being put into successful operation in one of our largest cities is as follows:

The Playground Association in this particular case secured a list of the names of 240 of the most prominent citizens, those chiefly concerned in the direction of the affairs of the city. This list included the mayor, the leading city officials, heads of departments, members of the Board of Education, leading educational workers, officers of the important organizations and clubs of the city, Chamber of Commerce, women's clubs, mothers' clubs, etc. The co-operation was then secured of a prominent and able citizen, who prepared a letter (or approved a letter that had been prepared), in which he called attention to the importance of the playground movement. The letter began: "I take the liberty of sending you a copy of —," inserting the name of the document being circulated, which might be a report of the playground movement, an important article reprinted from the Proceedings of the Playground Congress or something of a similar type. The letters were written on the personal letterhead of the sender, were signed by him personally, and were then sent to the selected people. In the course of a month another well-known citizen took hold of the work in a similar manner, sending out with a personally signed letter some other important piece of information.

In this way the nature and importance of the playground movement can be brought before those who are in control of the affairs of the city. When presented through personal introduction, people will be induced to read such contributions to the literature of the playground movement, which they could not be induced to read if the personal influence were lacking.

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38. "Public Schools Athletic League" (Girls' Branch), Luther H. Gulick, M.D.
39. Address of Governor Charles E. Hughes.
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41. Annual Report of Henry S. Curtis, Secretary.
42. These papers are bound in a Volume, together with reports of Committees for  
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### *Miscellaneous Reprints.*

43. "Playgrounds and Playground Equipment," Mrs. Elizabeth Rafter.
44. "Playground Plan for Washington," 1906.
45. "Washington Sites Available," Henry S. Curtis, 1908.
46. "Playgrounds in the United States," Joseph Lee, 1906.
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49. "Pittsburgh Playground Association," Beulah Kennard, 1908.
50. "The Business of Play," Lee F. Hanmer, 1908.
51. Review of Second Annual Congress, Graham R. Taylor, 1908.
52. "Public Playgrounds and Juvenile Delinquency," Judge Ben. B. Lindsay, 1908.
53. "Massachusetts Playground Referendum," 1908.
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55. "Important Opinions," circular containing brief statements from Theodore Roosevelt, Luther Halsey Gulick, M.D., Report of New York Children's Aid Society, 1907; Jane Addams, Elmer Ellsworth Brown, Robert Louis Stevenson, Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, Joseph Lee, Rev. Josiah Strong, D.D., Rt. Rev. Phillips Brooks, D.D., Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, D.D., Judge Ben. B. Lindsey, Hon. Charles E. Hughes.
56. "First Steps in Organizing Playgrounds," Lee F. Hanmer, 1908. (A Manual.) 10c. per copy.
57. "Field Day and Play Picnic for Country Children," Myron T. Scudder, 1908. (A Manual.) 10c. per copy.

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Subscription Price, \$1.00 per year; 10c. per single copy; \$5.00 per hundred copies.

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 "Kindergarten Mothers' Seashore Camp."  
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 "Prisoners' Base," Joseph Lee.  
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"Cities Requiring Playground Supervisors."

"Washington Sites Available for Playgrounds," Henry S. Curtis.

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Review of Banquet to Mrs. Humphry Ward.

Addresses by:

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Jane Addams, "Our City Girls."

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Luther Halsey Gulick, M.D., "Significance of the Present Time."

Messages from:

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Ambassador James Bryce.

Earl Gray.

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"Second Annual Playground Congress Program."

President Roosevelt's Letter to the Boys and Girls of Washington.



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ciation of America."  
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"Playground Happenings."  
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"New York City Parks and Playgrounds Association," Howard Bradstreet.  
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"Playgrounds in Louisville, Ky.," W. F. Bradbury.  
"Newark Playgrounds," Wm. J. McKiernan.  
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### STATISTICS OF PLAYGROUNDS IN THE 100 LARGEST CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

LEONARD P. AYRES.

THE accompanying statistical table gives the facts so far as it has been possible to gather them in regard to playgrounds in the one hundred largest cities of the United States up to the end of the year 1907. They are largely based on information secured from questionnaire sheets filled out by city officials, or persons engaged in playground work in the different cities. In all cases where printed reports are available, the information when secured has been checked by comparing it with the information given in the printed reports. Although the utmost care has been employed to insure as great a degree of accuracy as possible, the desired information is lacking for many of the cities where playgrounds exist; and in

some cases the information published is not to be trusted as absolutely accurate.

The situation in the country as a whole as disclosed by the data published in the summary is in its most salient features about as follows:

Of the 100 largest cities of the country, something more than half have playgrounds.

In the North Atlantic States decidedly more than half of the States have playgrounds.

In other sections of the country about half have playgrounds.

This does not mean, however, that adequate playground facilities exist in half of our cities. On the contrary, they do not exist in any city. The figures simply show that a beginning has been made in something more than half of the localities and that in others nothing whatever has been accomplished up to the close of 1907.

# PLAYGROUND STATISTICS OF THE HUNDRED LARGEST CITIES.

## SUMMARY.

	North Atlantic States.	South Atlantic States.	South Central States.	North Central States.	Western States.	United States.
Number of Cities.....	45	10	11	27	7	100
Cities having Playgrounds.....	29	5	5	14	4	57
Cities without Playgrounds.....	16	5	6	13	3	43
Population of Cities having Play- grounds .....	8,366,443	1,000,679	613,190	3,733,389	393,724	14,107,425
Population of cities not having Playgrounds .....	975,165	263,420	360,550	1,331,523	476,984	3,407,612
Aggregate Number of Playgrounds in 1907 .....	350(27)	79	12	377(12)	18(4)	836(54)
Aggregate Acreage of Playgrounds in 1907 .....	431(16)	38(3)	95(3)	106(9)	39(3)	709(34)

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## —PLAYGROUND STATISTICS

### MANAGING AUTHORITIES, BY CITIES :

	North Atlantic States.	South Atlantic States.	South Central States.	North Central States.	Western States.	United States.
Park Commission .....	10	—	1	—	1	12
Board of Education .....	1	1	—	1	—	3
Other Municipal Authority.....	4	—	1	5	—	10
Playground Association .....	4	2	—	1	1	8
Other Private Organizations.....	4	1	2	1	1	9
Combinations .....	5	1	1	5	—	12
Information Lacking .....	1	—	—	1	1	3
	29	5	5	14	4	57

# PLAYGROUND STATISTICS—

Continued from page 15.

## FINANCIAL:

Aggregate Annual Cost of Maintenance .....	North Atlantic States.	South Atlantic States.	South Central States.	North Central States.	Western States.	United States.
Aggregate Expenditure to Date....	\$484,675(23)	\$20,550(3)	\$13,000(2)	\$378,314(12)	\$27,563(4)	\$904,102(44)
SOURCE OF SUPPORT, BY CITIES:	\$18,138,607(17)	\$675(1)	\$55,000(2)	\$10,238,000(9)	\$102,116(3)	\$28,534,398(34)
Municipal Funds .....	15	1	2	8	1	27
Private Subscription .....	5	—	2	1	1	9
Both .....	3	2	1	3	2	11
Information Lacking .....	6	2	—	2	—	10
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	5	5	14	4	57

## YEAR WORK WAS BEGUN, BY CITIES:

Year	North Atlantic States.	South Atlantic States.	South Central States.	North Central States.	Western States.	United States.
1882 .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
1889 .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
1890 .....	1	—	—	1	—	2
1895 .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
1896 .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
1897 .....	—	—	—	1	—	1
1898 .....	3	—	—	—	—	3
1899 .....	1	—	—	1	—	1
1900 .....	2	1	—	1	—	4
1901 .....	—	1	—	2	—	3
1902 .....	2	—	—	1	—	3
1903 .....	—	—	1	—	—	1
1904 .....	1	—	—	3	1	5
1905 .....	4	—	—	1	1	6
1906 .....	2	2	1	2	—	7
1907 .....	6	—	1	1	2	10
Information Lacking .....	3	1	2	1	—	7
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	5	5	14	4	57

## —PLAYGROUND STATISTICS

Beside the figures giving the number and acreage of playgrounds and beside those giving their cost will be found other figures in parentheses. For example, under the North Atlantic States the aggregate number of playgrounds in 1907 was given as 350, and beside this figure appears the figure (27). This means that data was secured for 27 cities only, not for the 29 cities of that section where playgrounds exist. In all of the other cases, the figures in parentheses indicate the number of cities from which data has been secured, and they appear in every case where it was impossible to get the figures from all of the cities.

Referring to the figures giving the aggregate number of playgrounds in 1907, it will be noted that the North Central States are credited with having 377 playgrounds. This number is probably larger than is justified by the real facts in the case. Of these 377 playgrounds, 299 are credited to Chicago. This is because the school yards in Chicago have been included in the official reports as playgrounds. It is probable that a large part of them should not be so considered.

The figures showing the managing authorities indicate how little uniformity of practice there is in this matter. It is very surprising to note, too, that in only three cities does it appear that the playgrounds are managed by the Boards of Education.

The financial features are of special interest in showing the great contrast between the cities of the North Atlantic and the North Central groups and those of the other groups, in the amount of expenditure.

The figures showing source of support are important in that they indicate to some degree to how great an extent playgrounds have been taken over and cared for by municipal authority and how extensively they are still wholly or partly supported from private sources.

The figures showing when the playground work was begun in the different sections indicate clearly how the North Atlantic and North Central States have led in this movement.

The figures for the United States show how the number of cities undertaking this work has doubled in the past four years.

It is the intention of the Playground Association to secure and tabulate playground statistics each year. For 1908 it is hoped that figures for all the cities of the country of 5,000 population or more will be secured, and with an ever-increasing number of interested workers in different localities it is confidently expected that the information for 1908 and succeeding years will be increasingly extensive and accurate.

### PLAYGROUNDS IN FRANCE.

**M**R. HENRY DE PEYSTER, of Committee "des Ecoles de garde," Paris, France, has sent us the following account of playgrounds in that city:

Two small associations have started six or seven play-centers each. The latter, organized in 1904 with some of my friends and myself after the Swedes, has now seven centers, three supported by the central committee and four by their own means.

The three centers supported by the committee are situated, two in Paris, one in Levallois Perret, a popular and thickly populated suburb of Paris. The others have been founded in Paris, La Rochelle, La Salle (a small manufacturing town in South France) and Le Creusot, the great place for gun foundries in Burgundy.

The following manual training is given to the children: Boys—Wood-cutting, wood carving, basket work, shoe mending, raffia work, drawing. Girls—Sewing, cookery, embroidery, net making, raffia work.

## CANADIAN SPORTS—

### QUERY AND ANSWER.

I wish to get some information for the use of our Board of Education. Will you kindly advise me how our school yards can be treated to make a first-class surface for playgrounds? Here in Newark we have large yards, most of which are ordinary Jersey dirt, which is very muddy and very dusty alternately. Some, however, are filled in with plain cinders, which in the summer time tears the bare feet, and even destroys good shoes. Some of them are cemented, which is good for keeping the school clean from tramped-in dirt, but destroys it for a playground. The principals are striving to have this cement yard covering, because it prevents so much dust in the class room. I feel that a cheaper substitute can be furnished, one that will be satisfactory from the principals' standpoint, and also fill the necessary function as a playground surfacing.

Please let me have as much information as you can on this subject, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

RANDALL D. WARDEN,  
Director of Physical Training,  
Board of Education,  
Newark, N. J.

### *Answer.*

The best playground surface that has thus far been discovered seems to be a mixture of fine cinders and clay loam, in the proportion of 2 and 1; this is to be covered, not to exceed one-third inch in depth, with torpedo sand. It makes a surface that is fairly smooth and hard, but not as hard as solid clay; in fact, it is slightly springy.

The torpedo sand is not coarse enough to be rough and disagreeable, but it is sufficiently coarse to prevent it sticking to the children's feet and thus being carried into the school building, and it

does not blow away when the surface is dry, as the finer sand does.

The sand should be put on before the cinder and the clay mixture is thoroughly settled, thus allowing it to work into the surface.

Sincerely yours,

LUTHER HALSEY GULICK,  
President Playground  
Association of America.

### FREE RINKS AND SLIDES.

"The Parks Department of every northern city ought to provide numerous free skating rinks and toboggan slides for youthful citizens," writes J. J. Kelso, of Toronto. "The cost is not great, and untold health and pleasure can be given to thousands of young people. Everything in the form of outdoor exercise should be encouraged and there should be no charge made. Poor children are often denied the opportunity for rational enjoyment because they cannot pay the ten cents admission fee to the ordinary rinks. Then there should be some effort made to counteract the unnatural excitement of the five cent show, to which our young people throng because they have no better amusement. Nature provides all the facilities for good sport of the right sort. A corner of a public park set apart with a man to flood it and clean off the snow, and there you have a fully equipped rink for hundreds of children. A toboggan slide can be constructed by a carpenter in half a day if there is no hill to turn into a runway for the sleds. Winter sports have been neglected in the past by the great majority of children and yet there is no time of the year when the body so much needs and appreciates vigorous outdoor exercise. Therefore, a wise municipal government should recognize its responsibility for the happiness and well-being of its children.

—CANADIAN SPORTS



1. A SPECIAL BOB SLED.      2. THE TOBOGGAN SLIDE.  
TORONTO, CANADA.

## PLAY PROGRAM—

"In Toronto we now have twelve free skating rinks provided and operated by the Parks Department. This is in addition to eight or ten slides that have been established on the hills. Several thousand young people enjoy these good things, and the move has been so popular with all classes that the Parks Commissioner is now planning to establish twelve more of these rinks. To place a man in charge and defray other expenses costs \$5 per day for each rink, and so far this cost has been cheerfully met by the City Government.

Let all other municipalities do likewise and they will take the chill off the winter and save medical bills in many poor homes."

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### PLAY PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

1908-1909.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS ASSOCIATION  
(INC.)

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Tel. 3376 Madison Sq. 1123 Broadway

(Metropolitan Parks Association.)

(Brooklyn Society for Parks and  
Playgrounds.)

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*Officers.*—Eugene A. Philbin, President; Cass Gilbert, Vice-President; Lillian D. Wald, Second Vice-President; James A. Renwick, Treasurer; Howard Bradstreet, Secretary.

*Directors.*—Mrs. Tunis G. Bergen, Gutzon Borglum, Alfred J. Boulton, Gilbert Colgate, Elizabeth B. Curtis, W. C. Deming, Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea, Rt. Rev. David H. Greer, Luther H. Gulick, Mrs. Florence Kelley, Rt. Rev. M. J. Lavelle, Alice Lewisohn, Frank Lyman, Milo R. Maltbie, Pauline Robinson, Jacob A. Riis, William J. Schieffelin, Mortimer Schiff, Mrs. V. G. Simkovitch, Seth Thayer Stewart, William R. Wilcox.

At the first meeting of the Council of One Hundred of the Parks and Playgrounds Association of the city of New York, held at the residence of Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, one of the members, the following Play Program was presented and approved:

Life is "response to environment." If the environment is only a sidewalk, or a fence, a lamp post, an ash barrel, a green grocer's apple stand, a passing motor, or a well-dressed child, a poor man with his push cart, a penny moving-picture show, a dance hall, or a saloon, the response in too many cases may be predicted. If the sidewalk is the only attraction, the response is pitching pennies or buttons; if the fence draws attention, it is climbed or pulled down; the glass in the lamp post becomes a target; the ash barrel invites a kick; the apple stand a possible theft; the passing motor, in certain neighborhoods and with certain chauffeurs, means kill or be killed. What is the life, character, personality of the child if his expressions of life or responses are limited to such environments?

### A MILLION CHILDREN.

A million children on the streets all summer with only such motives to action become a menace to themselves and to the community. Even through the remainder of the year but little more than half the number are in school, where they may spend about one-fifth of their time during each of less than two hundred days. The city employs over 15,000 teachers for the culture of half the children during this small fraction of time, and in each class, unless all pupils are writing, only one pupil at a time in a class of forty or sixty has the opportunity of expressing himself. The street finds all the children expressing themselves all the time, and the only organization, with the exception of some clubs, is the gang with its leader and



## —PLAY PROGRAM

the restraining influence of nearly ten thousand policemen.

### CHILDREN, WHEN OUT OF SCHOOL.

The Parks and Playgrounds Association would *organize* for children, when out of school, the possibilities of *free play*. This organization is all the more necessary because the overcrowded tenement sections make impossible conditions for the proper development of child life in the streets. The play of children should be absolutely free, and yet it should be trained toward efficiency for work and self-helpfulness. The young man and the young woman in the office and the factory or otherwise engulfed in the maelstrom of industry also should find possible relaxation other than the saloon or the dance hall. Free play and the serious conditions of labor should be trained toward each other as natural and wholesome reactions.

### DISTRICT PLAY LEADERS.

The Association employed last summer as play leaders, twenty-five young men and women recently graduated from colleges and kindergarten training classes, and the results were such that it is thought wise that each district or neighborhood should be provided with play leaders, young men and young women, as peace officers to lead and protect children and youth at play in properly equipped surroundings.

### EDUCATION IS ASSOCIATION.

Education is largely association with people and places. The worse the place, the greater the necessity for the best leadership.

### PLAN OF WORK.

The Parks and Playgrounds Association of New York City purposes through its executive officers to work, so far as possible, for the benefit of children and youth when not in school in lines of effort as follows:

I. To *select* a corps of young college, kindergarten and other *graduates*, and direct their work as district play leaders or peace officers, in various sections of the city, in co-operation with local improvement agencies.

II. To *encourage* clubs, *societies*, associations, churches, institutions, hotels, department stores, factories, neighborhood committees and individuals to *provide* and *equip* the necessary places for recreation.

III. To *awaken interest* in the *multiplication* of small *parks*, gardens, roof gardens, evening *social centers*, public bathing pavilions and playgrounds, and in the use and improvement of vacant lots, and of open fields; to encourage the establishment of *camps* by the sea, the sound, the riverside, in the parks, or in the country for the benefit of mothers and babies, kindergarten children, institutional children and the boys and girls who spend the summer on the streets.

IV. To make *free play* *unconsciously purposeful*, the player beguiled toward work, and the worker beguiled toward play, that *play* and *work* may be natural reactions and both make for greater efficiency and happiness in life; the stores, the shops, the libraries, the public buildings should become social centers with leaders in the various forms of *expression*, and with a system of excursions to bring such great educational centers as the museums, galleries, libraries and parks, so far as possible within the reach of all.

V. To *provide*, equip and maintain, so far as possible, the various forms of *play service* throughout the year.

VI. To *organize neighborhood improvement leagues and committees* of parents and children for each playground.

## PLAY PROGRAM—

VII. To form committees of experts to plan the various lines of playground activities—the sports in their respective seasons, the use of the parks, public buildings, recreation centers, vacant lots, camps, etc., with a large service during the summer, culminating on the last day of the *Hudson-Fulton celebration* in a festival of play, song, and flowers simultaneously for all the children in all the parks and playgrounds of the city.

The organization of this Council is as follows:

### COUNCIL OF ONE HUNDRED PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

#### *President,*

Mr. Richard Watson Gilder.

#### *Vice-Presidents,*

Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, Mr. George D. Pratt, Mrs. Frederick W. Whitridge, Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea.

#### *Secretary and Treasurer,*

Miss Pauline Robinson.

#### *Honorary Members,*

Mrs. Humphry Ward.  
The Duchess of Marlborough.

#### *New York Members.*

Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, Mr. Otto Bannard, Mr. Gutzon Borglum, Mr. R. Fulton Cutting, Hon. Joseph H. Choate, Mr. Cleveland H. Dodge, Dr. Edward T. Devine, Dr. Bache Emmet, Mr. Frederick de P. Foster, Mr. Robert W. de Forest, Mr. Homer Folks, Mr. Richard Watson Gilder, Mr. John Glenn, Rt. Rev. David H. Greer, Mr. Adrian Iselein, Jr., Mr. John S. Kennedy, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, Colonel J. J. McCook, Mr. Henry Lewis Morris, Mr. Henry Phipps, General Horace Porter, Dr. William M. Polk, Mr. Eugene A. Phil-

bin (*ex officio*); Mr. W. Emlen Roosevelt, Mr. J. Hampden Robb, Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, Mr. Charles Chauncey Stillman, Mr. Henry W. Taft, Mr. Spencer Trask, Mr. Felix Warburg, Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, Miss Mabel Choate, Miss Elizabeth B. Curtis, Miss Caroline Astor Drayton, Miss Martha Draper, Miss Clementina Furniss, Mrs. William B. Osgood Field, Mrs. John Glenn, Miss Eleanor G. Hewitt, Mrs. Henry E. Howland, Mrs. Cadwalader Jones, Miss C. R. Lowell, Mrs. C. Grant La Farge, Mrs. Levi P. Morton, Miss Mary Morton, Mrs. Gordon Norrie, Mrs. James Roosevelt, Mrs. William Willis Reese, Mrs. Beverley Robinson, Miss Pauline Robinson, Mrs. Victor Sorchan, Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, Mrs. James Speyer, Mrs. William Jay Schieffelin, Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt, Mrs. W. Seward Webb, Miss Margaret S. Whitney, Miss Marie Winthrop, Mrs. Egerton L. Winthrop, Jr., Mrs. Frederick W. Whitridge, Miss Dorothy Whitney.

#### *Brooklyn Members.*

Dr. Fred. W. Atkinson, Mr. Tunis G. Bergen, Mr. Frank L. Babbott, Mr. Fraser Moffatt, Rev. John Howard Melish, Mr. George D. Pratt, Mr. Dudley D. Roberts, Mr. Seth Thayer Stewart, Mr. Clarence H. Seamans, Judge Edward B. Thomas, Mr. Alfred T. White, Mr. Edwin C. Ward, Judge Robert J. Wilkin, Mrs. Tunis G. Bergen, Miss Mary A. Brackett, Miss Alice Gill Chittenden, Miss Elizabeth B. Cutting, Mrs. George H. Coutts, Mrs. Arnold Guyot Dana, Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea, Miss Dorothea Dreier, Mrs. Robert S. Gould, Mrs. William H. Lyon, Mrs. Frank M. Lupton, Mrs. Henry R. Mallory, Mrs. Jeremiah Meserole, Mrs. James L. Morgan, Mrs. Frederick W. Moss, Miss Louise G. Zabriskie.

## —PLAYGROUND APPROPRIATION

### APPROPRIATION FOR WASHINGTON PLAYGROUNDS.

Washington, Jan. 13.—By the narrow margin of three votes—65 to 62—the House of Representatives in committee of the whole overruled the Committee on Appropriations to-day. The committee recommended that \$1,500 be expended on a number of children's playgrounds in the District of Columbia. Mr. Parsons, of New York, proposed to increase the amount to \$15,000, and after nearly four hours' debate it was agreed to.

J. Adam Bede, of Minnesota, contributed a speech in relief of the monotony of lengthy discussion of so small a matter of finance. He said:

"If the question referred only to Democrats, boll weevil and other products of Texas I would leave it entirely to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Burleson), but as it refers to children and I have some of those innocent products in my family I think I have a right to speak. It depends altogether upon what you think and what you believe about the conduct of children. I never have known a family of ten or fifteen children like my own that could be turned out into the nursery without a governess.

"I once had a lady friend who had about twenty children. She was a married woman. [Laughter.] She believed in the administration policy and her home was by the side of a river. A stranger came by, stopped for a drink at the well, and in talking with the lady expressed the idea that it was a very dangerous place to live for a family that had so many children. The lady said, 'Oh, no; it isn't so very dangerous. We have only lost three within the last twenty years.' [Laughter.]

"Now, it depends upon how precious you consider the children whether you want the governess or not. It is a question whether you want to turn loose all the children of the District of Columbia,

not to play leapfrog but to attack each other in the different games in which they are engaged. My own personal experience in raising fifteen or twenty children is that they need a little supervision. We haven't got enough secret service men to turn over to that business." [Laughter and applause.]—*N. Y. Sun*, Jan. 14, 1909.

On the following day an aye and nay vote was taken and the amendment was lost by a vote of 133 to 96.

As a supplement to Mr. Mero's article, in *PLAYGROUND* No. 22, on the playground referendum in Massachusetts, it should be said that an essential part of the work was organizing local interest and especially finding some one person in each city who would act as a live wire, and that in this essential part of the program a very large part of the work was done by Mrs. Arthur Leland.

The origin of dominoes has been attributed variously to the Greeks, the Chinese and Jews, but a Paris contemporary has discovered that the ever-popular game owes its invention to the Benedictines of Mount Cassin. Two of the order were sent into lengthy retreat, and they hit upon a method of whiling away the spare time without infringing the rules of silence by playing with square stones, upon which various dots were marked. While perfecting themselves they perfected, or rather evolved, the game, and were accustomed to frequently repeat when playing in the evening psalms from Vespers, especially the first, that is Psalm CIX, which begins, "Dixit Dominus Domino meo." When the retreat was over the game was soon known in the convent. Then its fame spread to the village and beyond. The verse was reduced to one word, "Domino," hence the name as we have received it.

From *The General Advertiser*, Dec. 19, 1908, Dublin, Ireland.

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

### PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

BY LEE F. HANMER, FIELD SECRETARY.

Mayor Taylor, of Alameda, Cal., has recently appointed a playground commission. The members are: F. N. Delanoy, Dr. F. W. D'Evelyn and S. Bruce Wright. Already workmen are busy on the three sites that are to be immediately developed.

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The Baltimore Playground Association has completed the preparation of a normal course for its playground workers extending from January 5th to May 25th: The special feature of the course is a series of lectures by authorities on various lines of playground activities.

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For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, the appropriations for playgrounds in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., amount to \$88,445.

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The Park Board of Bridgeport Conn., is preparing to set aside sections in the public parks as children's playgrounds. The Board will ask for an appropriation for this specific purpose.

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On December 1st, the School Board of Berkeley, Cal., executed a lease of a piece of ground which is to be opened as a public playground. This is a temporary arrangement. Plans for developing a system of playgrounds are under way.

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The Board of Education and Park Commission of Cincinnati, O., are uniting in the administration of playgrounds. The Park Commission will furnish the sites and the Board of Education the supervision.

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Through the efforts of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Dallas, Tex.,

funds were raised last year for public playgrounds, children's hospital, and probation work. Mr. William G. Leeman was appointed chief probation officer and director of playgrounds. His work has been so successful that the city has created the position of chief probation officer and has selected Mr. Leeman for this work. A director will now be employed to give his entire time to the development of playgrounds. A public recreation center with field-house and baths is being constructed; this is to cost \$10,000.

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On December 8th a playground association was formed for Denver, Colo. One hundred and two persons were enrolled at the initial meeting. On December 28th a public meeting held by the Association was addressed by Dr. Gulick.

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The Board of Commerce of Duquesne, Pa., has taken up the cause of public playgrounds and has committed itself to at least one public playground during the coming summer. The marked success of the playgrounds during the past summer at McKeesport, a neighboring city, has had much to do with bringing about this action.

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On December 1st, the Board of Education of Duluth, Minn., took the preliminary steps to provide public playgrounds in connection with its school buildings. A special committee was authorized to purchase, within certain price limitations, several pieces of real estate adjacent to school buildings.

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Mayor George H. Steele, of Hoboken, N. J., in his annual message on January 1st, strongly urges the establishment of a public bath and a new public playground.

## —PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

Mayor Wittpenn, of Jersey City, N. J., has just received plans from his landscape architect for the development of a piece of property donated by the late Cornelius Zabrisky for a public playground. There will be a wading pool and running track beside the regular playground equipment for small children.

In order that the twenty-three cities of Massachusetts that have recently voted for the establishment of public playgrounds may be given all possible assistance in carrying out the provisions of the state law, the Massachusetts Civic League has appointed a state committee on playgrounds. This committee will work in co-operation with the Playground Association of America.

President J. E. Northrup of the Minneapolis Park Commission has appointed a playground committee to make a study of the playground facilities of Minneapolis, and to recommend developments. C. T. Booth, physical director of the Y. M. C. A., and E. T. Lies, General Secretary of the Associated Charities, are members of the commission.

By unanimous vote, the aldermen of Norfolk, Va., concurred with the Common Council, in overriding the Mayor's veto to prevent the use of the old high school grounds as a public recreation center. The Mayor's objection was reported to be the undesirability of this location rather than opposition to the idea of establishing playgrounds.

The first Children's Recreation Center to be owned and operated by Newark, N. J., was opened on December 27th. It adjoins one of the city's playgrounds and is under the direction of the city's playground commission.

"Mayor" Sam Berliss, of the school city playground, of Newark was "non-suited" on December 26th in a "mock trial" in his suit for \$1,000 damages brought against Gustave Gohd, who was charged with having made a slanderous remark in the course of a speech in the last playground election. The case was tried before "Judge" Richard F. Hanin in the playground "Quarter-Session Court."

On December 14th, Mayor Frank K. Mott, of Oakland, Cal., announced the appointment of a playground commission. This commission is to work in conjunction with the Board of Public Works.

On December 12th the City Council of Ottawa, Ont., passed a resolution to raise \$60,000 to establish playgrounds in the different wards of the city. This proposition was voted down at the city election in January.

A playground association for Poughkeepsie was organized on December 7th. Plans will be formulated for a system of public playgrounds for the city. Mayor Sague is co-operating heartily in the movement. He is honorary president of the Association.

The Pittsburg Playground Association has arranged for a series of entertainments to take place during the coming winter in connection with the public playgrounds. The first was held during the Christmas holidays.

Judge Staake of Philadelphia says: "The public playground is the greatest deterrent of delinquency and lawlessness among children." Superintendent Brumbaugh says: "If the boy has no playground but the city street who can blame him for trespassing. The city, not the boy, is to blame."

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

A Christmas present came to the city of Philadelphia in the form of a 25-acre tract of land which is to be used as a public playground. Mr. Joseph Wharton is the Santa Claus.

The Parents and Teachers Association of Public School No. 15, of Rochester, N. Y., made a formal demand at their last meeting for a playground for their section of the city.

The need of providing and equipping ample playgrounds for every school was urged at length in his annual report to the legislature by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. W. Olsten, of Minnesota.

The Civic Union of Seattle, Wash., at its annual meeting on December 17th, voted to support the proposition for an issue of park bonds to the amount of \$1,000,000 provided that at least \$250,000 of that amount be applied to the acquisition and improvement of playgrounds and neighborhood centers.

A playground association was organized in San Diego, Cal., on December 13th. A mass meeting was held in January to bring the plans of the association before the people of the city.

The recent report of the Ways and Means Committee of the Philadelphia Playground Association contains some valuable suggestions to local playground associations. Mr. Lucien Hugh Alexander, 714 Arcade Building, Philadelphia, Pa., is chairman of the Committee.

The Pittsburgh Playground Association is doing an interesting piece of work this winter in providing for its playground teachers a normal course of

instruction. Arrangements have been made with the University of Pittsburgh for a course conducted by Dr. J. H. White on "Special Topics in Educational and Social Psychology."

The second part of the normal course deals with "Practical Problems in Playground Administration." This course will be conducted by leaders associated or procured by the Pittsburgh Playground Association.

Opportunity will also be given for teachers desiring to do research work.

The course will be free to teachers who are connected with the Pittsburgh playgrounds in either the winter or the summer work.

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